



# G-5's "Eye on AMC"

## U.S. Army Materiel Command

*Essential in Peace, Indispensable in War*

May 28, 2004

### International team inspects chemical weapons stockpile

An international team from the Organisation [sic] for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons inspected Tuesday the stockpile of chemical munitions stored at Anniston Army Depot May 26. The OPCW is a multinational group located in The Hague, Netherlands, established through the Chemical Weapons Convention. Members of the group oversee worldwide verification of compliance with the international treaty.

This is the ninth visit by an OPCW team to inspect the weapons stored and monitored by Anniston Chemical Activity. The last inspection was held in November 2003, the first after transportation of munitions to the Anniston Chemical Disposal Facility began. The inspections are carried out to verify that accurate records of the remaining munitions are kept.

### Uniform covers 'special' field request

Calling from a bomb crater in Afghanistan in the winter of 2002, a Special Forces Soldier had a pointed request for the Special Operations Forces Special Projects Team at the U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center in Natick, Mass.: Send warm clothing.

After a year of tests and evaluations, operators working in frigid battle zones got what they wanted in the Protective Combat Uniform, an interchangeable 15-piece, seven-level ensemble that can be worn in layers appropriate for the mission. The PCU will replace the existing Lightweight Environmental Protection developed under the Special Operations Forces Equipment Advanced Requirements.

"He said 'We're cold. You gotta do something to help,'" said Richard Elder, an equipment specialist on the Special Projects Team and project officer for the PCU, recounting the conversation that started the process. "It's exciting that in less than 12 months, the system was fielded into theater. That's never been done before."

By the time the uniform officially fields in 2006, the product will have been upgraded several times with another shell system and alternate vest as part of a catalog of components to further adjust to the specific mission. Until full fielding, those who need the uniforms are getting them and are involved in the evolution of the design with their comments from the battlefield.

### Lab tackles problem of military stress fractures

The Bone Health and Metabolic Laboratory at the U.S. Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine is working to solve the problem of stress fractures, which is increasingly taking a toll on the military population. The laboratory, located at the U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center in Natick, Mass., has been using the latest research tools to find a way to identify at-risk individuals and prevent the stress fractures through training intervention.

"Stress fracture cases have been reported since the late 1800s and today are one of the most common and potentially debilitating overuse injuries seen in military recruits, particularly women," said Maj. Rachel Evans, a research physical therapist and director of bone health research.

The fractures are hard to see on X-rays and disrupt physical training, sidelining troops while costing the Defense Department as much as \$100 million annually in medical costs and lost duty time, Evans said.

### Soldiers, civilians can view Army Campaign Plan materials

More than 100,000 interactive CD-ROMS, featuring Army Campaign plan information, are being sent out to Army leadership at installations worldwide.

Soldiers, family members, Department of Army civilians and contractors can view the information contained on the CD-ROM at the following Web site: <http://www.army.mil/thewayahead/acp.html>